Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 920

92 ppm Digital Printer / Copier

Sum-up: Rugged high-performance model featuring a friendly user interface.

The bizhub PRO 920 is based on a high-performance platform and offers a comprehensive range of strong features.

Paper handling: One of the most important strengths of this machine is that it supports 110 lb. index from all paper drawers. The drawers feature heavy-duty construction, and the various paper-feeding mechanisms within the machine are of a very sturdy nature.

The bizhub PRO 920 features include dual 500-sheet trays plus a 1,000 sheet tray standard, and there are two optional large-capacity trays. One option features a 4,500 -sheet capacity, and the other option has a 4,000 sheet capacity and holds up to 12" x 18" paper. A 150-sheet bypass is standard as well.

Another area where Konica Minolta offers impressive specifications is on the 920's standard document feeder. The feeder holds 100 sheets. A further strong point is that originals are scanned at 92 ppm, matching the rated speed of the copier engine. This is something that can't always be taken for granted on models from other vendors.

Originals are scanned at 600dpi, and copies can be output at either 400dpi or 600dpi, according to the user's preference. The bizhub PRO 920 comes standard with 256MB of memory, expandable to 512MB. It also comes with a 40GB hard drive. As a result of its high capacity and memory handling technology, the 920 is able to scan up to 100 copy jobs while engaged in outputting the current copy or print job and store up to 10,000 images.

Output devices: The bizhub PRO 920 features several output options. It has two optional finishers, one of which includes a booklet maker with saddlestitcher. The base finisher has a 200-sheet upper tray and a 3,000-sheet lower tray with 100-sheet multiposition stapling. The finisher with booklet maker offers a 200-sheet upper tray and 3,000 sheet lower tray, though it has 50-sheet multiposition stapling.

The booklet maker finisher comes with two options: a postprocess insertion tray and a trimming option. The postprocess inserter features several enhancements; it has two trays and inserts can now be inserted at any point within any document. Both finishers offer an improved option that combines a 3-hole punch and a Z-folder.

Other features: The list of features includes items such as image overlay, auto image layout (for centering the images of pages copied from books), image rotation (for automatically matching the orientation of the image with that of the paper), and proof-copy mode. The auto-centering works nicely with the nonimage-area erase feature - combined, the two features allow you to copy things like checks and receipts without lowering the platen lid so that the image appears nearly in the middle of the page with no black background around it. This machine also supports batch feeding of originals, where users are able to scan more pages to memory that the document feeder is able to hold by doing it in installments.

The bizhub PRO 920 has a maximum monthly copy volume rating of 750,000, which is further evidence of its upscale design. This figure is the second highest of any active model in the Konica Minolta product line (the bizhub PRO 1050 surpasses this figure with 1,5 million pages).

Connectivity: The bizhub PRO 920 features an advanced controller, designed by Konica Minolta that is similar to the one offered on the bizhub PRO 1050. It is based on a low-voltage 800MHz processor and includes standard parallel and Ethernet interfaces.

Other strong points include support for subset stapling, Bates stamping, and an improved hard drive spooling function. The controller also offers a feature-rich scanning function that offers a broad range of feature and security enhancements.

Conclusion: This model is an excellent machine, offering some of the most advanced technology in the high volume copier market. It is a standout in tis speed range and gets our Editor's Choice Award.

Better Buys for Business: The High-Volume Copier & Multifunctional Guide, Guide number 187, October 2006